GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1217
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
UNDERGROUND COAL GASSIFICATION
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CIL and the ONGC have entered into a MoU for active association in underground coal gasification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment of quantum of gas to be provided through underground coal mines has been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the Government is working on any scheme in collaboration with any other foreign or indigenous company for conversion of coal into oil or gas;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith expenditure likely to be incurred in the process;

(g) whether any foreign technology is likely to be borrowed for the purpose; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR.DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b) : Yes, Sir. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have entered into a MOU towards making a Joint Venture with equal partnership on 50:50 basis for a pilot project for underground coal gasification

(UCG). The site for the Pilot Project is yet to be decided.

(c) & (d): The Joint Venture will make a pilot project to establish the technology. Based on the results of the Pilot Project, assessment regarding availability of quantum of gas, its quality, consumption etc. will be done. It is not possible to make any assessment at this juncture.

(e) to (h): Oil India Ltd.(OIL) under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is carrying out some trial to convert coal into oil in Assam. In this context, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd., Ranchi has prepared a pre-feasibility study on availability of coal from North Eastern Coalfields of CIL for commercial coal liquefaction plant of OIL. No foreign collaborator has been selected for the coal liquefaction and no project expenditure has been worked out as yet. However, possibility of inducting a foreign technology cannot be excluded.